

VZCZCXRO9422
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #2401 1500428
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 300428Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4028
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1314
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 4876
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7222
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1683
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3281
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4437
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 002401

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - US-IRAN TALKS - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Wednesday morning's Tokyo Shimbun and Mainichi front-paged press remarks Tuesday evening by Prime Minister Abe, who said he would appoint a new agriculture minister by week's end following the suicide Monday of MAFF Minister Matsuoka.

¶1. "US, Iran Should Continue Talks" The business-oriented Nihon Keizai editorialized (5/30): "The US and Iran held their first formal talks in 27 years since they broke off diplomatic relations. The ambassador-level talks will not lead directly to improving bilateral ties, however, given that the subject of discussion was limited to the situation in Iraq. Nonetheless, the resumption of direct dialogue between Tehran and Washington could serve as a key first step to getting the chaos in Iraq under control and easing international tensions in the Middle East. The atmosphere in the nearly four-hour meeting, mediated by Iraqi PM Maliki, was reported to be 'businesslike.'... Confidence-building is not easy. It is, first and foremost, important for each nation to accurately grasp the intentions of the other and avoid mistaken judgments. In this regard, continued direct formal talks between the US and Iran are meaningful."

¶2. "Will Direct US-Iran Talks Make Progress?" An editorial in the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri stated (5/30): "...The US and Iran held their first formal talks since 1980, when they broke off diplomatic relations. The US and Iranian ambassadors to Baghdad discussed issues limited to the situation in Iraq, and it would be overly optimistic to expect much from the talks. Nonetheless, every possible measure needs be taken to get the situation in Iraq under control.... The possibility exists that Iran may seek to play its 'Iraq card' in extracting an international compromise over its nuclear program."

